



DELAWARE EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

February 10, 2015

9:00a.m. to 11:00a.m.

Division of Developmental Disabilities Services – Fox Run Office

2540 Wrangle Hill Road, Suite 200

Bear, DE 19701

Large Conference/Training Room

Attendance: Dawn Alexander, Melia Anderson, Madeleine Bayard, Heidi Beck, Martha Buell, Susan Campbell, Daphne Evans, Carmen Gallagher, Ranie Good, Debbie Gottschalk, Paulia Gyan, Shebra Hall, Thomas Hall, Erika Hauser, Sonia Haynes, April Hill-Addison, Paula Holloway, Lynn Jezyk, Evelyn Keating, Jennifer Koester, Brandi Miller, Sue Mitchel, Mary Moor, Mary Kate Mouser, Leslie Newman, Pam Reuther, Annette Searfoss, Marcie Shahan, Denise Stouffer, Debbie Taylor, Jamie Walko, Nancy Widdoes, Kathy Wilson, Michelle Wilson, Leah Woodall, Linda Zankowsky

1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

- Mary Kate Mouser welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.
- Mary Kate Mouser asked if there were any change to the December 18th 2015 meeting minutes. The meeting minutes will be changed to reflect that the December 18, 2014 Council meeting was also held in conjunction with the Wilmington Early Care and Education Council. Also, additional name was added to the meeting attendance list. No other changes to the minutes were suggested.

2. Wilmington Education Advisory Committee (WEAC) Update and Discussion

- Power Point Presentation by Dan Rich on Strengthening Wilmington Education
 - The entire power point presentation can be found by going to:
http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/01/WEAC_InterimPresentation-02.07.2015.pdf
 - Mandate out of the Governor's Office to Strengthen Public Education for all Wilmington Students due to the 40 years of reforms and recommendations of the earlier commissions, thousands of Wilmington children do not have access to high quality education.
 - The current Chair of the WEAC is Tony Allen, Ph.D. with committee members made up of educators, parents, community leaders, Public Administration Analysts from UD Institute and the Counselor.
 - WEAC believes the responsibility for the current conditions lies within the whole community and the solutions must come from the whole community. The longer we fail to act, the more costly and difficult it will become.
 - 51% of students in Delaware public schools are low income.
 - Action agenda for WEAC – Four areas of board community concern
 - **Creating responsive governance**
 - Reducing the number of Wilmington school districts.
 - Pursuing a new vision for Wilmington charter schools.

- Strengthening the role of the Wilmington community.
- **Meeting Wilmington student's needs**
 - The Governor and State Legislature should mandate the IRMC to develop a comprehensive plan for the integration of services for low-income children and families, and four schools with high concentrations of poverty. The plan should include recommendations for redirecting current State funding.
 - The State should use its existing policy infrastructure to implement the comprehensive plan, including partnerships with private and non-profit institutions, which will create a community of support for low income children and their families.
 - The plan, including initial recommendation for program and policy changes and funding requirements, should be submitted to the Governor and State Legislature in January 2016.
- **Funding student success**
 - The General Assembly should approve a weighted student funding formula or a modification to the current unit count formula that incorporates allocations for schools with high concentrations of students in poverty and English language learners, and expands special education status to grades K-3.
 - Strengthen the revenue base supporting public education at both the State and local levels. Property reassessment should be implemented without further delay and undertaken on an ongoing schedule that reflects national best practices.
 - Funding adjustments should be made to support the costs of district reorganization. A needs assessment should be conducted to evaluate whether the remaining districts in Wilmington require new middle and high schools in the city.
 - The General Assembly should approve enabling legislation for the City of Wilmington to increase revenue, subject to approval by the City Council and the Mayor, for the specific support of an Office of Education and Public Policy.
 - The Advisory Committee endorses the increased investment needed and already anticipated to sustain and accelerate advances in early childhood learning, workforce and college access that meets the needs of low-income students.
- **Implementing change**
 - The Governor and General Assembly should create the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission, a broadly representative, cross-sector partnership outside of existing State agencies.
 - The Wilmington Education Improvement Commission should:
 - Serve as the State advisory commission on planning and implementing these recommendations.
 - Advise the Governor and Legislature on improvements for all schools with high concentrations of children in poverty.
 - Issue an annual report to the Governor and State Legislature describing the progress of implementation and proposals for continuous improvement in Wilmington Education.
 - Unless reauthorized, terminate June 30, 2020.
- Other handouts that were given out by Dan Rich for the WEAC presentation were:
 - Summary of Recommendations
<http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/01/Wilmington-Education-Advisory-Committee-Executive-Summary-January-26-2015.pdf>

- Strengthening Wilmington Education – Interim Report
<http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/01/Wilmington-Education-Advisory-Committee-Interim-Final-Report-January-26-2015.pdf>
- Letter to the Governor – Written January 26, 2015
<http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/01/Wilmington-Education-Advisory-Committee-January-26-2015.pdf>
- Delaware Early Childhood Council's next steps following the WEAC presentation
 - We will schedule a meeting sometime in March, 2015 to go over the details of the concept and the Council can further discuss if this is something that we would like to support.
 - The feedback on the concept must be received no later than March 15, 2015 and it will be presented to the Governor by March 31st, 2015.
 - Consider the recommendation and endorse the plan and idea for greater investment.
 - An early childhood piece/wording must be added to the concept.
 - If anything was missed or has been misstated or misrepresented please send an e-mail to Dan Rich at drich@udel.edu
 - Help with figuring out how to deal with the challenges facing low income children and families.
 - The council will draft up comments on this proposal and give to Dan Rich. Everyone is encouraged to e-mail their feedback to Mary Kate & Madeleine within the next week.

3. Next Steps following the Learning Opportunity on December 18, 2015

- Mary Kate Mouser stated that a small group is meeting next week to look at the discussion and will make a recommendation on what the next steps will be from the trauma informed care presentation.

4. Goal 1, 2, 3 and 4 - Updates

- Goal 1
 - Nancy Widdoes stated that their meetings are posted to the Delaware Early Childhood Council website and State public meeting calendar. Also, they are focused on tracking progress and following how progress is being made. At the last meeting there was dialogue about the Federal policy of expulsion and suspension of young children in early learning settings.
- Goal 2
 - Evelyn Keating stated that they had two meetings this past fall and reviewed the ED25 section and how it complemented the goal 2 strategic plan. The second meeting held was about messaging and engaging and having a good tag line for messaging for example "Great Tomorrows Being Today".
- Goal 3
 - Michelle Wilson from Capital School District is the new Goal 3 Chair. Michelle stated that she is looking to revitalize the group after the transition with new committee members. First alignment meeting is in Dover at Delaware Tech and they will be adding a co-chair to the sub-committee to get a different perspective.
- Goal 4
 - Ed Freel was unable to make the meeting the Goal 4 Committee meeting notes were placed in the meeting packets <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/01/2014-10-23-Meeting-Notes-G4-Committee.pdf> as well as a January 9th letter from Ed to Mary Kate <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/01/2015-01-09-Ltr-to-Council-Chair1.pdf>

4. Early Childhood Data Management System Update and Discussion (ECIDS)

- Nancy Widdoes presented on the Early Learning Insight – Delaware Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS). The full presentation can be found at <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/01/ELI-Early-Childhood-Council-2014-02-10-v2.pdf>
 - ECIDS Vision – To answer questions no single, separate databases can answer
 - 2014 Delaware Status
 - ECIDS is non-existent in Delaware (and largely nationwide).
 - Very limited system-wide data.
 - Nearly 30 separate databases in early childhood.
 - Difficult to respond to federal mandates, federal grant performance targets and measures.
 - Impossible to respond to research questions.
 - Establishing a comprehensive statewide early childhood integrated data system (ECIDS) is part of the Interagency Resource Management Committee's (IRMC) strategic leadership agenda.
 - Data Governance – Establishes responsibility for data, organizes program staff to collaboratively and continually improve data quality, creates policies, roles, responsibilities and procedures.
 - The Delaware Early Childhood Data Management Team's primary purpose is to advise the Early Childhood Data Policy Committee/IRMC. The Data Management team consists of the Governor's Office, Delaware Early Childhood Council, Department of Education, Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Services for Children Youth and Their Families, Delaware Office of Early Learning and Early Childhood Providers and Community Organizations.
 - The Early Learning Insight (ELI) Data Integration will cross cut program views.
 - Dashboard
 - Inform instruction
 - Sharing findings
 - Reduce redundancy
 - Reports
 - Aggregations
 - External requirements
 - Comparisons
 - Research
 - Longitudinal analysis
 - Early Learning Insight - Schedule
 - Planning and Analysis
 - March 2014-June 2014
 - Organization, governance, expectations, metrics, stakeholder engagement, technical infrastructure.
 - Development
 - June 2014-January 2015
 - Data extract and load, quality assurance, reports, dashboard views, testing.
 - Pilot
 - February-April 2015
 - Training materials, train the trainer, end user support, knowledge transfer, plan for phase II ECIDS.
 - Nancy reported on the different types of views in the ELI Core
 - State early learning program view
 - Child assessment of DE ELS student view
 - Child assessment DE ELS classroom view

- Child assessment DE ELS school view
- Program participation
- Service gaps
- Mobility
- Next Steps
 - The U.S. Education Grant to be awarded in fall 2015 would fund build-out of framework into a comprehensive system. The total grant award will be around 3 million dollars and 4 years in duration.
 - Focus on data usage
 - Turning data into action
 - Dashboards
 - Reports
 - Priority Areas
 - Teacher Effectiveness
 - Early childhood
 - Research access
 - Post-secondary to workforce
- Mary Kate Mouser suggests to the council to think about this presentation and we will have a discussion at our next meeting.
- Please feel free to contact Nancy Widdoes with any questions.

5. Future Meetings, Events, Updates and Wrap Up

- Strengthening Delaware's Quality Early Childhood System (Taking Points) – Madeleine Bayard encouraged everyone to look this document over because this a generic document that we can all use as advocates. The document has common talking points as well as what we have underway.
- Susan Perry Manning will start on February 27, 2015 as the Director of the Office of Early Learning and Early Development and Learning Resources work groups. Susan's bio can be found at: <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/01/SPM-Bio-Feb-2015.pdf>
- A calendar of the 2015 DECC meetings has been issued so everyone can get those on the books.
- April 14th, 2015 is the Delaware Healthy Mother & Infant Consortium Annual Summit at the Chase Center Riverfront in Wilmington. We will re-schedule our April 14, 2015 Delaware Early Childhood Council meeting since it is on the same day.
- May 6th, 2015 is Early Learning Advocacy Day in Dover and we will have a Council meeting that day in conjunction with the event.
- April 17th & 18th, 2015 is the Making a difference conference hosted by Delaware Head Start Association and DAEYC.
- March 9th, 2015 is the Montessori Works event which will begin a discussion about the role that Montessori education can play in our public schools.
- April Hill-Addison stated that Head Start is celebrating 50 years on May 2nd, 2015. There will be a statewide celebration held at the Delaware Early Childhood Center. Invites to the event will be sent out officially to the Council at a later date.
- **Next Meeting**
March 31, 2015 – Focus Group on Sustainability
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Large Conference/Training Room
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